(c) the corrective steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). The allegations made in the newspaper report are under investigation of Food Corporation of India.

[*English*]

Strengthening of Food and Drug Admistrations.

4184. SHRI SANAT MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are working out a comprehensive plan to strengthen the Food and Drug Administrational all over the country;

(b) if so, the broad features of the plan; and

(c) the role assigned to the State Government and that reserved by the Union Government in this-regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The Government have initiated various steps to strengthen the Food and Drug Administration, both at the Central and State levels. These include expansion of prevention of Food Adulteration Units and the Central Drugs Control Organisation at the Centre; additional facilities for the Central Food and Drug Laboratories and providing of central Assistance to the State Government to augment the facilities in the Food and Drug Laboratories. It is also proposed to strengthen the Drug Inspectorate Staff in the States.

(c) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules thereunder and also the Drugs and Consmetic Act and Rules thereunder, the role assigned to the Central Government is mainly to lay down standards for Food and Drugs respectively. However, the basis responsibility of enforcement of these Acts and Rules for purposes of issuing of Licences/cancellation of licences, checking of quality of Food and drugs etc. are of the State Governments.

The Drugs and Cosmetic Rules are being amended so that for specified categories of drugs like biologicals, immuno-biological and I. V. Fluids the State Government shall issue licences only with the approval of the Central Government.

[*Translation*]

Welfare Schemes of Tribals With World Bank Assistance

4185. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the schemes proposed to be executed with the world bank assistance for the welfare of tribals living in the plateau area under the Family Welfare Programmes during 1991-1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free Rail Travel Passes

4186. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given on July 30, 1991 to Unstarred Question No. 1012 and state the class-wise number of free travel passes issued since July, 1991?